

# DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS

## CRIMES

- The number of reported homicide, forcible rape, and aggravated assault crimes represents known victims, while robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson, the number represents known incidents.
- Aliso Viejo Police Department started reporting separately from the Orange County Sheriff's Department on July 1, 2001.
- Grant Union School District began reporting February 1, 2001.
- Long Beach City College began reporting January 1, 2001.
- Los Angeles Community College did not report data for January 1 through January 20, 2001. On January 21, 2001, it became a contract agency with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Its data from January 21 through December 2001 is included in the sheriff's department's reports.
- Mendocino DPR began reporting July 1, 2001.
- Orange Police Department did not report property values for 2001 due to problems with their record's management system.
- Data for the San Francisco County Sheriff's Department is reported by the San Francisco Police Department.
- San Francisco Police Department did not report data for September through December 2001, due to staffing problems. They, however, were able to provide homicide data for the entire year.
- San Jose Police Department experienced technical problems with the compilation of data during the transition to their new record's management system.
- Trinidad Police Department began reporting separately from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department on August 1, 2001.
- UC Santa Cruz determined through investigation that a forcible rape complaint reported in 2000 was unfounded. The adjustment was made during the year 2001. Since no forcible rapes were reported for the year 2001, this resulted in a negative number for the offense.
- Motor vehicle thefts are reported by the California Highway Patrol for the sheriff's departments of counties Contra Costa, El Dorado, Santa Cruz and Tulare. El Dorado County Sheriff's Department reports only the motor vehicles that have been stolen while a burglary was committed.

- The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) changed the name of five of their agencies (from American River DPR, Gold Rush DPR, Los Lagos DPR, Pismo Dunes DPR, and Russian River/Mendocino DPR to Gold Fields DPR, Capital DPR, Inland Empire DPR, Oceano Dunes DPR, and Russian River DPR, respectively).

## ARRESTS

### Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (MACR)

- If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, MACR selects only the most serious offense, based on the severity of possible punishment.
- Felony arrest counts may include some misdemeanor warrants for felony offenses.
- Misdemeanor burglary became a new CJS codeable offense in 2001.
- The subjectivity of the classification and labeling process must be considered in the analysis of race/ethnic group data.
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## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### **Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance**

- The definition of “domestic violence” is subject to varying interpretations by law enforcement agencies. As a result, different types of domestic relationships are included in the data base.
- Included in the data are any cases which resulted in a report being written by the responding law enforcement agencies. Data, therefore, include both cases where an arrest was made and those where circumstances did not warrant an arrest.
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## **ADULT PROBATION**

- The sources of data are county probation departments' monthly reports of summary data.
- The data include adults placed on supervised probation only. Court probation, diversion, and summary probation are not included.
- Persons are counted once for each jurisdiction. Therefore, data includes original grants of probation and does not include subsequent grants of probation to persons already under probation supervision ordered by the same level court in the same county. Also, probationers under jurisdiction of both superior and lower courts (or consolidated courts) and any who are jurisdictional cases of more than one county are counted more than one time in statewide totals.

- San Bernardino County data are incomplete for 2001, due to a loss in personnel.
- San Francisco County did not report data for 2001. This was attributed to problems with the upgrading of the system's management system.
- Yolo County reported partial data for 2001 (April through December). The inability to extract data for the remaining months was due to programming problems dealing with Y2K issues.

## **ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS**

### **Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS)**

- The OBTS system describes the processing of adults arrested for felony offenses from arrest through final disposition. “Final” disposition refers to a specific legal action which takes place following an adult felony arrest. Final disposition can occur at the law enforcement, prosecutor, or court level.
- Only the final disposition of an arrest event is selected for statistical purposes. Intermediate dispositions (diversion programs, suspended proceedings, reopenings, retrials, or subsequent actions) are not included in the OBTS data.
- If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, the OBTS system selects only the most serious offense, based on the severity of possible punishment. If there are multiple court dispositions, the OBTS system selects the most serious court disposition and the associated offense.
- OBTS are grouped by the year of disposition regardless of the year in which the arrest occurred.
- Adult Felony Arrest Disposition data represent final dispositions equal to approximately 65-75 percent of the total adult felony arrests made during a calendar year. Therefore, final dispositions may occur in a year following the year of arrest. In the aggregate, the data generally describe state patterns; however, this may not be the case in any particular county.
- OBTS data for state institutional commitments may vary from information compiled and reported by other state agencies because of differences in the data collection systems and criteria.
- The OBTS file includes some persons whose age at the time of arrest was under 18. These minors received a final disposition in adult court under provisions of the Welfare and Institutions Code sections 602, 707(a), 707(b), 707(c), and 707.1(a).

## **2001 PROFILES (to the Data Tables)**

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